

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 01140 011300Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W  
-----074214 012034Z /70  
R 011235Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3717  
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1140

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3 (DECLAS 2/21/90)  
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, DR  
SUBJECT: PARDON OF STUDENT LEADER ROBERTO SANTANA

1. STUDENT LEADER ROBERTO SANTANA SANCHEZ WAS ONE OF THIRTY-EIGHT PRISONERS PARDONED BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER FEB 26, DAY BEFORE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION (SEPTEL). SANTANA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF DOMINICAN STUDENTS FEDERATION (FED), IS MOST PROMINENT NATIONAL STUDENT LEADER IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. HE WAS ARRESTED IN NOVEMBER DURING SECONDARY SCHOOL PROTESTS AGAINST FIRING OF TEACHERS BY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, AND WAS AWAITING TRIAL ON CHARGES OF INCITING DISORDERS AND ASSAULTING A POLICEMAN. EARLY LAST YEAR, SANTANA WAS ARRESTED ON SIMILAR CHARGES CONNECTED WITH VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS AT AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF SANTO DOMINGO (UASD) WHICH LED TO A MILITARY/POLICE INTERVENTION AND CLOSING DOWN OF UASD FOR FORTY DAYS. THOUGH SENTENCED IN JUNE TO ONE YEAR IMPRISONMENT, HE WAS PARDONED BY BALAGUER IN AUGUST 16 AMNESTY. THUS, SANTANA BECOMES ONLY INDIVIDUAL TO BENEFIT FROM TWO PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS IN LESS THAN YEAR.

2. ON FEB 13, AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED SANTANA CASE WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE UNDERSECRETARY FAFANEL BLO ANDINO. AMBASSADOR OUTLINED EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT THAT SANTANA'S NOVEMBER ARREST APPEARED BASED ON WEAK CHARGES AND THAT SANTANA WAS AN INDEPENDENT-CONFIDENTIAL

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MINDED BUT NON-COMMUNIST LEADER WHO HAD BECOME SOMETHING OF A NATIONAL FOLK HERO (HE WAS REELECTED FED SECRETARY GENERAL IN DECEMBER WHILE STILL IN PRISON). AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO INCLUDING SANTANA AMONG PERSONS TO BENEFIT FROM A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON ON FEB 27. BELLO SAID THE SUGGESTION WAS A GOOD ONE AND THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH PRESIDENT.

AXELROD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STUDENTS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
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**Draft Date:** 01 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SANTO01140  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X3 (DECLAS 2/21/90)  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PARDON OF STUDENT LEADER ROBERTO SANTANA  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PINT, DR, (SANTANA, ROBERTO)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014